

PARADISE--DENIO
MFP IIII

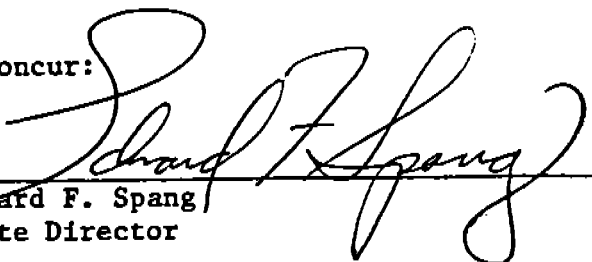
I approve:



Frank C. Shields
District Manager

June 30, 1982

I concur:



Edward F. Spang
State Director

July 9, 1982

Paradise-Denio Environmental Impact Statement

Record of Decision

On September 18, 1981, notice appeared in the Federal Register announcing the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) filed a Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for livestock grazing within the Winnemucca District's Paradise-Denio Resource Area. The BLM has decided to adopt an integrated plan using components of both the Proposed Action and Livestock Reduction/Maximizing Wild Horses and Burros Alternative. It is to guide the range management program within the framework of the Land Use Plan.

Alternatives Including the Proposed Action as analyzed in the Paradise-Denio Grazing EIS

1. Proposed Action

Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) would be implemented on existing AMPs and would be reviewed and revised if necessary on 57 allotments. This action would initially allocate 101,689 animal unit-months (AUMs) to livestock, 16,237 AUMs to big game and 4,630 AUMs to wild horses. Proposed livestock support facilities include land treatments and seedings on 254,749 acres, 247.5 miles of fence, 10 cattleguards, 18 wells, 2 springs, 5.5 miles of pipelines, 1 earthen reservoir and 26 troughs.

2. No Livestock Grazing Alternative

Under this alternative all vegetation would be allocated to reasonable numbers of big game and maximum number of wild horses and burros. This alternative would allocate 16,237 AUMs of available vegetation to big game and 8,462 AUMs to wild horses and burros initially. Approximately 190 miles of fence would be removed to insure proper management of wild horses and burros.

3. No Action Alternative

Under this alternative the range management program would continue as it exists at the time the EIS was prepared. The current level of utilization by livestock would continue at 192,073 AUMs (based upon average licensed use from March 1, 1977, to February 29, 1980). Existing big game use of approximately 16,867 AUMs would be maintained. Wild horse and burro use would remain at 29,936 AUMs. AMPs would remain on 42 allotments. Existing livestock support facilities would be maintained, but no new facilities would be constructed.

The CRMP process would not necessarily require participation by the formal CRMP committee. The process may be accomplished in a more informal manner, initiated by either the BLM or the range user. Regardless of the approach, all affected interests will be afforded the opportunity to actively participate in the process.

Prior to initiating grazing adjustments, the Bureau, within the framework of the Management Framework Plan and CRMP, will consider the specific management objectives for the allotment and other resource values (e.g., riparian zones, water quality, wildlife, recreation, wild horses and burros, livestock) to be evaluated to determine progress in meeting those objectives. Changes in the resource values may warrant a modification of the scheduled adjustments. Other information necessary to set forth actions required to achieve the resource management objectives for the allotment may also be considered. These objectives will indicate the intensity and types of monitoring that will be required in each allotment.

2. Prioritization for intensive management by allotment, will be accomplished through the selective management policy which classifies allotments into three categories: "M" (Maintain), "I" (Intensive), "C" (Custodial). These priorities will be listed in the rangeland program summary due to be issued by October 15.
3. Livestock support facilities will be identified and developed through the CRMP process. The potential for land treatment has been identified on approximately 269,000 acres. Land treatment is defined as vegetation manipulation (i.e., plowing, burning, spraying, etc., and/or seeding).
4. Wild horse and burro herds will be maintained in the areas described in the Livestock Reduction/Maximizing Wild Horse and Burro Alternative. However, numbers will be determined by the following criteria: Existing/current WH&B numbers (as of July 1, 1982) will be used as a starting point for monitoring purposes except where one of the following conditions exist:
 - a. Numbers are established by adequate and supportable resource data.
 - b. Numbers are established through the CRMP process as documented in CRMP recommendations and agreed to by the District manager.
 - c. Numbers are established by formal signed agreement between affected interests.
 - d. Numbers are established through previously developed interim capture/management plans. Plans are still supportable by parties consulted in the original plan. EA's (EAR's) were prepared and are still valid.
 - e. Numbers are established by court order.

4. Maximizing Livestock Alternative

AMPS would be implemented on existing AMPs and would be reviewed and revised if necessary, on 64 allotments. This alternative would initially allocate 101,888 AUMs to livestock, 4,630 AUMs to wild horses and 16,237 AUMs to big game. Proposed livestock support facilities include land treatments and seedings on 445,061 acres, 277.5 miles of fence, 10 cattleguards, 18 wells, 2 springs, 5.5 miles of pipeline, 1 earthen reservoir and 24 troughs.

5. Livestock Reduction/Maximizing Wild Horse and Burro Alternative

AMPS would be implemented on existing AMPs and would be reviewed and revised, if necessary, on 54 allotments. This alternative would initially allocate 87,595 AUMs to livestock, 8,462 AUMs to wild horses and burros and 16,237 AUMs to big game. Proposed livestock support facilities include land treatments and seedings on 200,219 acres, 195 miles of fence, 9 cattleguards, 18 wells, 2 springs, 5.5 miles of pipeline, 1 earthen reservoir and 24 troughs.

The Plan and Implementation

The Plan consists of the intergration of the Proposed Actions and the Livestock Reduction/Maximizing Wild Horses and Burros Alternative with the following modifications:

1. Implementation of the range management program will take place through monitoring and Coordinated Resource Management and Planning (CRMP).

The 1978 range survey was the source of the production data analyzed in the EIS and was the best information available at the time; however, it is the intent of the Bureau to gather additional rangeland data via monitoring prior to initiating adjustments. Grazing adjustments, if required, will be based upon reliable vegetation monitoring studies and/or CRMP group recommendations, and/or baseline inventory, or a combination of these. These studies will be obtained from an intensive, coordinated monitoring effort involving all affected interest groups (Coordinated Resource Management and Planning).

Pending this data collection, livestock and wild horse use may continue at approximately current levels, except where agreements are reached with livestock users and/or wild horse and burro interests.

Coordinated Resource Management and Planning (CRMP) is a process that brings together all interests concerned with the management of resources in a given local area: landowners, land management agencies, users, wildlife groups, wild horse groups, conservation organization, etc.

Rationale for the Decision

The plan represents a balanced resource alternative. It strives to maintain existing livestock, wildlife and wild horse and burro use while improving range condition through intensive grazing management. In addition by using CRMP as the vehicle of implementation all resource values (e.g., riparian zones, water quality, wildlife, recreation, wild horses and burros, livestock) will be considered in all range management programs.

Frank C. Shields
District Manager
Winnemucca District